



Matthew 27:63-28:15

The Historicity of the Resurrection

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Enemies Attest Jesus' Prediction

Matthew 27:63-64 (NASB)

"Sir, we remember that when He was still alive **that deceiver** said, 'After **three days I am to rise again.**'

Therefore, give orders for the grave to be made secure until the third day, otherwise His disciples may come and steal Him away and say to the people, 'He has risen from the dead,' and the last deception will be worse than the first."

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Action to Stop Deception

Matthew 27:65-66 (NASB)

Pilate said to them, "You have a guard; go, **make it as secure as you know how.**" And they went and made the grave secure, and **along with the guard they set a seal on the stone.**

- They fear a fake resurrection predicated on an empty tomb
- They use two methods: legal (a seal) and physical threat (guards)

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Two Women Take Action

Matthew 28:1 (NASB)

Now after the Sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary **came to look at the grave.**

- Previously the disciples fled (Matt. 26:56)
- The Centurion confessed (Matt. 27:54)
- The women stayed and served (Matt. 27:55, 56)

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The Earth and the Guards Quake

Matthew 28:2-4 (NASB)

And behold, a severe **earthquake** had occurred, for **an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled away the stone** and sat upon it. And his appearance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow. The guards **shook** for fear of him and became like dead men.

- Earth “quake” and “shook” are *seismos* and *seio_* in the Greek

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The Angelic Announcement

Matthew 28:5-6 (NASB)

The angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid; for I know that you are looking for Jesus who has been crucified. He is not here, for **He has risen**, just as He said. **Come, see the place** where He was lying.”

- Angelic announcements to a Jewish audience would signify God’s intervention
- They are to see the empty tomb and thus become witnesses

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The Angelic Commission

Matthew 28:7-8 (NASB)

The “**Go quickly and tell** His disciples that He has risen from the dead; and behold, He is going ahead of you into Galilee, there **you will see Him**; behold, I have told you.” And they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to report it to His disciples.

- Various Greek words for “watch,” “see” and “look” are used 9x in vss 1-11

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The Women Worship Christ

Matthew 28:9-10 (NASB)

And behold, Jesus met them and greeted them. And **they came up and took hold of His feet and worshiped Him**. Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; **go and take word to My brethren** to leave for Galilee, and there they will see Me.”

- “Took hold” *krateo_* means “to grasp” and is used in Matt. 26:50-57 twice for what happened in Jesus’ arrest (irony)

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Paid to Lie!

Matthew 28:11-13 (NASB)

And Now while they were on their way, some of the guard came into the city and reported to the chief priests all that had happened. And when they had assembled with the elders and consulted together, they gave a large sum of money to the soldiers, and said, "You are to say, 'His disciples came by night and stole Him away while we were asleep.'

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The Deception Spreads

Matthew 28:14-15 (NASB)

And "And if this should come to the governor's ears, we will win him over and keep you out of trouble." And they took the money and did as they had been instructed; and this story was widely spread among the Jews, and is to this day.

- Justin Martyr mentions this claim showing that it was still circulating in 155 AD

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Implications

- There were people with means, motive, and opportunity to refute the claims of Christ but were unable to do so
- Everyone agreed that the tomb was empty
- It is not reasonable to claim that the disciples made up a story where they are the cowards and women are the brave witnesses

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